

Directorate: Children, Education and Families
Subject: Finance Monitoring Report – October (period 7)

Contents

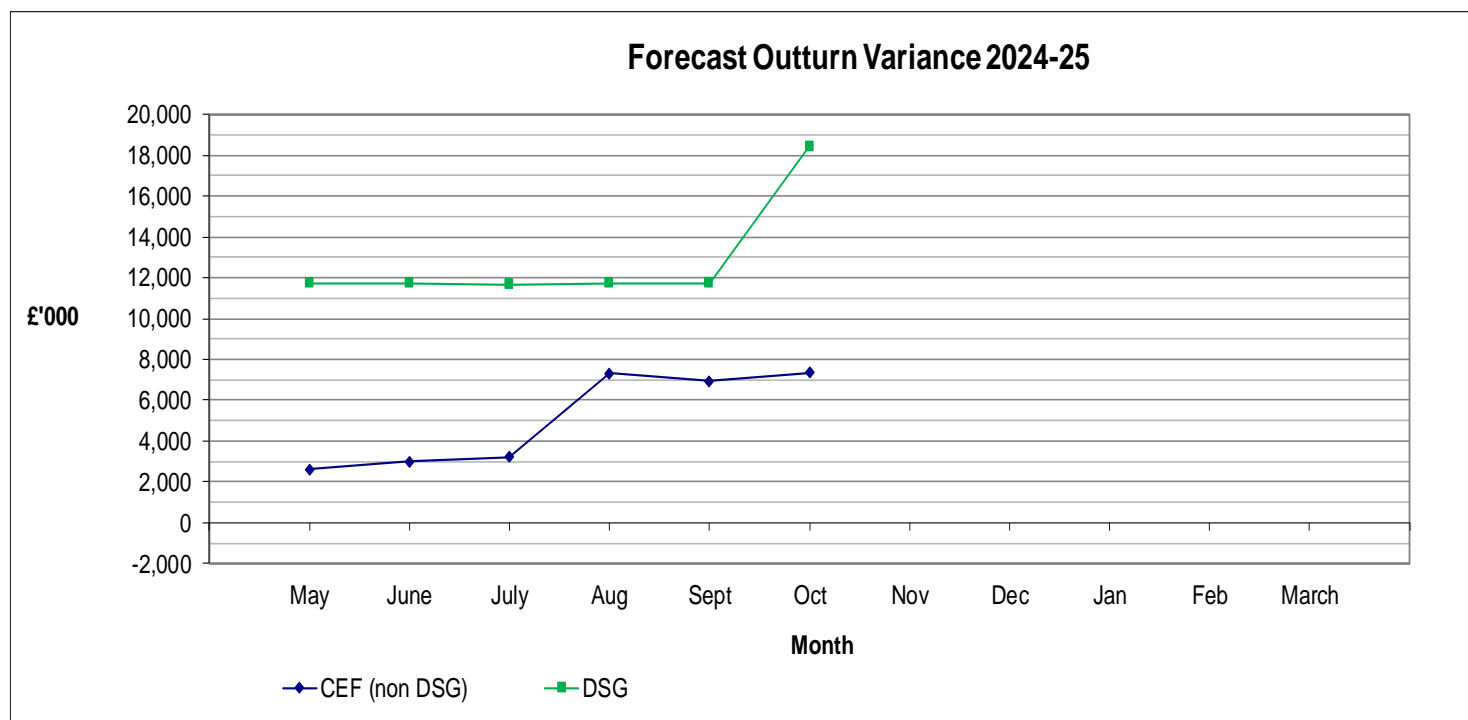
Section	Item	Description
1	Revenue Executive Summary	High level summary of information and narrative on key issues in revenue financial position
2	Capital Executive Summary	Summary of the position of the Capital programme within Children, Education and Families
3	Savings Tracker Summary	Summary of the latest position on delivery of savings
4	Technical Note	Explanation of technical items that are included in some reports
5	Key Activity Data	Performance information linking to financial position of main demand-led services
Appx 1a	Service Level Financial Information	Detailed financial tables for Children, Education and Families main budget headings
Appx 1b	Service Level Financial Information	Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) financial tables for Children, Education and Families main budget headings
Appx 2	Service Commentaries	Detailed notes on revenue financial position of services that have a significant variance against budget
Appx 3	Capital Appendix	This contains more detailed information about the capital programme, including funding sources and variances from planned spend.
<i>The following appendices are included quarterly as the information does not change as regularly:</i>		
Appx 4	Savings Tracker	Each quarter, the Council's savings tracker is produced to give an update of the position of savings agreed in the Business Plan.
Appx 5	Technical Appendix	Each quarter, this will contain technical financial information showing: Grant income received Budget virements Earmarked & Capital reserves
Appx 6	Maintained Schools	Each quarter, this will contain summary financial information showing: Numbers of maintained school with deficit budgets Revised maintained school balance forecasts

1. Revenue Executive Summary

1.1 Overall Position

At the end of October 2024, Children, Education and Families is projected to be £7,431k overspent on core funded activities and £18,427k overspent on Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) activities.

1.2 Summary of Revenue position by Directorate



1.2.1 Childrens, Education and Families – Non DSG

Forecast Outturn Variance (Previous) £000	Service Area	Gross Budget £000	Income Budget £000	Net Budget £000	Actual to date £000	Forecast Outturn Variance £000	Forecast Outturn Variance %
-750	Executive Director	3,532	-99	3,433	567	-1,360	-39.6%
0	Quality Assurance & Practice Improvement	2,919	-312	2,607	1,295	0	0.0%
-400	Fostering, Adoption & Corporate Parenting	29,512	-9,256	20,255	15,046	-650	-3.2%
782	Targeted Support & Childrens Social Care	28,771	-4,212	24,559	13,599	682	2.8%
2,863	Education	71,094	-15,325	55,769	16,028	1,329	2.4%
4,000	Commissioning	33,986	-715	33,271	19,538	7,000	21.0%
430	LDP and Prevention	9,864	-791	9,073	6,751	430	4.7%
6,926	Total Expenditure	179,677	-30,710	148,967	72,824	7,431	5.0%
0	Schools	0	0	0	-2,902	0	0.0%
6,926	Total	179,677	-30,710	148,967	69,922	7,431	5.0%

1.2.2 Children, Education and Families – DSG

Forecast Outturn Variance (Previous) £000	Service Area	Gross Budget £000	Income Budget £000	Net Budget £000	Actual to date £000	Forecast Outturn Variance £000	Forecast Outturn Variance %
14,000	Education (DSG)	117,721	-805	116,916	68,708	20,697	17.7%
0	Commissioning (DSG)	245	0	245	123	0	0.0%
14,000	Total Expenditure (DSG)	117,966	-805	117,161	68,830	20,697	17.7%
-2,270	Schools (DSG)	537,613	0	537,613	112,736	-2,270	-0.4%
0	Financing (DSG)	304,558	-959,333	-654,774	-178,871	0	0.0%
11,730	Total (DSG)	960,138	-960,138	0	2,696	18,427	0.0%

1.3 Significant Issues

The overall position for Children, Education and Families non-DSG budgets to the end of October 2024 is a forecast overspend of £7.431m.

Executive Director – The revised forecast against the Executive Director budget is a £1.36m underspend. The vacancy factor for Children Education Families (CEF) is currently forecast to overachieve by £750k. Following the confirmation of the national pay award, and the decision by Staffing and Appeals Committee for locally determined pay scales, there is an underspend of £610k against the allowance made in the budget for pay inflation.

Children in Care Placements – The forecast for children's external placements has increased to £7m. This is primarily driven by an increase in the number of young people requiring care, rising placement costs and limited provider availability of suitable providers. To manage this, we are monitoring costs through weekly package reviews and implementing strategic initiatives such as the Sufficiency Strategy. We are engaging with providers to secure more sustainable and economical placements for children. There continues to be increasing demand of statutory care placements for children that are unable to remain in the family care setting affected by extra familial harm (risks outside the home); acute mental health needs and those are acutely affected by their neuro developmental needs resulting in family breakdowns.

Fostering, Adoption and Corporate Parenting – The net underspend for Fostering, Adoption and Corporate Parenting has increased to £650k. This is due to receiving an increase in the Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children grant funding than anticipated and a decrease in the spend for Special Guardianship Order allowances.

Targeted Support and Childrens Social Care – The net forecast overspend for Targeted Support and Childrens Social Care has reduced to £682k. Continuing reliance on agency staff within the Integrated Front Door (IFD), Assessment and Family Support & Safeguarding teams. This has been offset in part by the application of one-off grant carry forward and the cessation of previous Family Safeguarding contracts. As part of the business planning process for 2025-26 options to support the workforce in these areas have been developed based on demand analysis and forecasted improvement activity. In addition, the IFD/Assessment service will be receiving 6 newly qualified social workers (SWs) and 3 International SWs in September / October as part of its effort to recruit more permanent social workers. We are continuing to engage with our internal recruitment team to bolster our permanent

recruitment drive and campaigns. We are also ensuring that any requests for agency staff are being rigorously reviewed at the Children's Expenditure Panel.

Strategic Management - Education – A revised underspend of £1.5m is being reported to reflect the continuation of the Household Support Fund which has released core funding previously identified to provide Free School Meal vouchers during school holidays, which will instead be funded from the Household Support Fund grant.

Education – A revised net forecast pressure of £68k is being reported for Education services (excluding Home to School Transport). A reduction in the number of recipients has resulted in a forecast underspend on historic teachers' pensions of £450k. This is being offset by pressures within the ICT service (£172K) and SEND Specialist Services (£350k) as well as other small variances.

The SEND Specialist Services pressure is due to the continued pressures within the Educational Psychology service. The service continues to experience increasing demand which cannot be met from within the substantive team and is therefore being met through use of locum Education Psychologists. This is as a direct result of the increase in requests for Education Health and Care Needs Assessments (EHCNA) that is impacting on all SEND services. This is a national trend and is not isolated to Cambridgeshire. The service is continuing to consider the best value approach to meeting the increasing demand. The current forecasting suggests this position will worsen by year end due to the demand outweighing capacity.

To drive down demand for EHCPs and reduce spend, a SEND recovery plan has been agreed within an Inclusion for All 0-25 programme that will strengthen the focus on Inclusive Practice through an end-to-end review of SEND. This will enable a review of resources against the pressure points in practice to reconfigure spend so that there is funding in the right places. In scope of this work, all non-statutory provision across the wider Education department will be reviewed to ensure the gaps in capacity that is driving the reliance on high-cost locums is reduced. The strengthened governance within the Inclusion for All programme will accelerate the pace and tighten the grip and focus of this work. However, the scale of the issues is large, and the changes implemented are in a dynamic environment where demand is outstripping the cultural shift in practice to generate change.

The ICT Service is forecasting an overspend of £172k as a result of the continued reduction in spend by schools on ICT hardware due to increasing financial challenges. The service is looking at ways to mitigate this overspend and amend the delivery model for future years.

Home to School Transport – The Home to School Transport Service continues to forecast a £2.7m overspend for the 24-25 Financial Year. This is because of unforeseen growth in demand, for example an additional 2,000 routes being implemented for the 24-25 Academic Year across just mainstream services.

The demand underpinning escalated transport costs is driven by a combination of a surge in demand for children and young people meeting the criteria for transport (largely through the growth in children with SEND) and the costs associated with meeting this demand where the transport itself is costing more to deliver. To drive down these costs, a transformation programme is in place that is aiming to reduce demand by a consistent application of The Home to School Transport Policy, alongside a review of contractual arrangements and routes.

A lack of local special school places has contributed to the increase in transport demand as children are more often requiring transport to a specialist private school that can meet their needs.

Despite changes in the transport team structure and processes, there is a strong focus on service review to mitigate continued overspends. This is to include processes for earlier forecasting, transport procurement plans and utilising the opportunity of the pending consultancy review.

Children's Disability Service - The 0-25 Disability Service continues to forecast an overspend of £430k due to the increase in demand and need across the direct payment budget, community support and Camplay holiday clubs, as well as a budget pressure created by the intensive therapeutic support hub (ITSH).

Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) – Appendix 1b provides a detailed breakdown of all DSG spend within Children, Education & Families Services. The budget figures are gross of recoupment for academies and High Needs place funding.

A cumulative DSG deficit of £40.015m has been brought forward into 2024-25. To the end of October, the revised reported net DSG forecast is £18.427m. Work is ongoing to remodel demand and develop new approaches to manage costs whilst meeting the increase level of need.

Maintained Schools – An increasing number of schools have submitted deficit budgets for the 2024-25 financial year. Work is currently underway to review revised deficit recovery plans and work with schools to develop further options for sustainable budgets in future years. Strategy, Resources and Performance Committee have now approved delegated responsibility to the Executive Director: Finance and Resources to be able to approve license deficit applications for schools with deficits in excess of 5% of their annual school budget.

2. Capital Executive Summary

At the end of October 2024, the capital programme forecast underspend is zero. The level of slippage and underspend in 2024-25 is currently anticipated to be £6,048k and as such has not yet exceeded the Capital Variation Budget. A forecast outturn will not be reported unless this happens.

3. Savings Tracker Summary

The savings trackers are produced quarterly to monitor delivery of savings against agreed plans.

4. Technical note

On a quarterly basis, a technical financial appendix will be included as Appendix 5. This appendix covers:

- Grants that have been received by the service, and where these have been more or less than expected.
- Budget movements (virements) into or out of the directorate from other directorates, to show why the budget might be different from that agreed by the Full Council.
- Service earmarked reserves – funds held for specific purposes that may be drawn down in-year or carried-forward – including use of funds and forecast draw-down.

5. Key Activity Data

5.1 Key activity data to the end of October 2024 for **Children in Care Placements** is shown below:

Service Type	BUDGET				ACTUAL (October 2024)				OUTTURN		
	No of placements Budgeted	Annual Budget	No. of weeks funded	Average weekly cost per head	Snapshot of No. of placements Oct 2024	Yearly Average	Forecast Outturn	Average weekly cost per head	Yearly Average budgeted placements	Net Variance to Budget	Average weekly cost diff +/-
Residential - disability	4	£1,462k	52	£7,028	6	5.75	£2,184k	£8,338	1.75	£722k	£1,310
Residential - secure accommodation	1	£1,396k	52	£26,852	0	0.00	£k	£0	-1.00	-£1,396k	-£26,852
Residential schools	6	£662k	52	£2,122	6	5.26	£876k	£3,143	-0.74	£214k	£1,021
Residential homes	51	£15,421k	52	£5,815	56	53.89	£16,577k	£6,894	2.89	£1,156k	£1,080
Independent Fostering	151	£7,346k	52	£936	190	181.10	£9,596k	£1,079	30.10	£2,250k	£144
Tier 4 Step down	1	£348k	52	£6,695	0	0.00	£k	£0	-1.00	-£348k	-£6,695
Supported Living	2	£776k	52	£7,460	1	0.91	£554k	£7,075	-1.09	-£222k	-£384
Supported Accommodation 16+	33	£3,286k	52	£1,915	30	12.26	£3,274k	£2,407	-20.74	-£12k	£493
Unregulated	5	£101k	52	£387	0	1.84	£50k	£374	-3.16	-£51k	-£13
Growth/Replacement	2	£1,664k	52	£16,002	8	4.60	£6,556k	£21,695	2.60	£4,892k	£5,693
Additional one off budget/actuals	0	£k	0	£0	0	0.00	£k	£0	-	£k	£0
Mitigations required	0	£k	0	£0	0	0.00	-£1,205k	£0	-	-£1,205k	£0
TOTAL	256	£32,462k			297	265.61	£38,462k		9.61	£6,000k	
In-house Fostering	170	£4,224k	56	£444	165	151.22	£4,016k	£473	-18.78	-£208k	£29
In-house fostering - Reg 24	35	£400k	56	£204	23	33.25	£336k	£212	-1.75	-£64k	£8
Family & Friends Foster Carers	20	£400k	52	£385	34	30.05	£696k	£412	10.05	£296k	£28
Supported Lodgings	0	£k	0	£0	2	1.22	£18k	£0	0.00	-£5k	£0
Mitigations / growth							-£19k			-£19k	
TOTAL	217	£5,062k			224	215.74	£5,047k		-15.16	£k	
Adoption Allowances	80	£991k	52	£238	76	77.11	£809k	£201	-2.89	-£181k	-£37
Special Guardianship Orders	292	£2,482k	52	£163	270	277.79	£2,090k	£144	-14.21	-£392k	-£19
Child Arrangement Orders	41	£350k	52	£164	18	37.55	£263k	£134	-3.45	-£87k	-£30
Mitigations / growth							£260k			£260k	
TOTAL	413	£3,822k			364	392.45	£3,422k		-20.55	-£400k	
OVERALL TOTAL	886	£41,346k			885	873.80	£46,931k		-26.10	£5,600k	

NOTES: In house fostering payments fund 56 weeks as carers receive two additional weeks payment during the summer holidays and one additional week each for Christmas and birthday.

Appendix 1a – Children, Education and Families Detailed Financial Information (non DSG)

Forecast Outturn Variance (Previous) £000	Committee	Note	Budget Line	Gross Budget £000	Income Budget £000	Net Budget £000	Actual to date £000	Forecast Outturn Variance £000	Forecast Outturn Variance %
			Executive Director						
-750	CYP	1	Executive Director	3,532	-99	3,433	567	-1,360	-40%
0	CYP		Central Financing	0	0	0	0	0	0%
-750			Executive Director Total	3,532	-99	3,433	567	-1,360	-40%
			Service Director – Quality Assurance & Practice Improvement						
0	CYP		Quality Assurance & Practice Improvement	2,919	-312	2,607	1,295	0	0%
0			Service Director – Quality Assurance & Practice Improvement Total	2,919	-312	2,607	1,295	0	0%
			Service Director – Fostering, Adoption & Corporate Parenting						
0			Fostering and Supervised Contact Services	10,689	-396	10,293	6,079	0	0%
0		2	Corporate Parenting	12,566	-8,168	4,398	6,013	-250	-6%
-400	CYP	3	Adoption	6,257	-693	5,564	2,954	-400	-7%
-400			Service Director – Fostering, Adoption & Corporate Parenting Total	29,512	-9,256	20,255	15,046	-650	-3%
			Service Director – Targeted Support & Childrens Social Care						
-375		4	Strategic Management - Children's Social Care	3,632	0	3,632	1,807	-375	-10%
1,600		5	Integrated Front Door	4,398	-208	4,190	3,634	1,500	36%
-329		6	Family Support & Safeguarding	4,641	-175	4,466	2,186	-329	-7%
0			Youth Offending Service	4,099	-1,331	2,768	1,965	-0	0%
-114		7	Targeted Support Service	9,675	-376	9,299	5,403	-114	-1%
0	CYP		Support to Parents	2,326	-2,122	204	-1,396	0	0%
782			Service Director – Targeted Support & Childrens Social Care Total	28,771	-4,212	24,559	13,599	682	3%

Forecast Outturn Variance (Previous) £000	Committee	Note	Budget Line	Gross Budget £000	Income Budget £000	Net Budget £000	Actual to date £000	Forecast Outturn Variance £000	Forecast Outturn Variance %
Service Director Education									
0		8	Strategic Management – Education	3,176	-61	3,115	2,988	-1,500	-48%
31			Early Years Service	4,670	-4,057	612	-1,548	33	5%
-0			School Improvement Service	1,457	-607	850	432	0	0%
-66			Virtual School	1,976	-1,501	475	712	-66	-14%
36			Outdoor Education (includes Grafham Water)	2,304	-2,381	-77	-374	0	0%
-25			Cambridgeshire Music	2,826	-2,851	-25	465	-25	-100%
172		9	ICT Service (Education)	1,632	-1,832	-200	-423	172	86%
-350		10	Redundancy & Teachers Pensions	4,750	-579	4,171	3,092	-450	-11%
<u>SEND Specialist Services (0 - 25 years)</u>									
250	CYP	11	SEND Specialist Services	4,962	-79	4,883	3,270	350	7%
0	CYP		High Needs Top Up Funding	0	0	0	0	0	0%
0	CYP		Alternative Provision and Inclusion	621	0	621	182	0	0%
250			SEND Specialist Services (0 - 25 years) Total	5,583	-79	5,504	3,453	350	6%
<u>0-19 Place Planning & Organisation Service</u>									
55	CYP		0-19 Organisation & Planning	1,505	-980	525	262	55	10%
-0	CYP		Education Capital	199	0	199	-9,753	-0	0%
2,090	CYP	12	Home to School Transport – Special	25,260	-180	25,080	9,964	2,090	8%
-0	CYP		Children in Care Transport	2,165	0	2,165	807	-0	0%
671	CYP	13	Home to School Transport – Mainstream	13,591	-216	13,374	5,953	671	5%
2,816			0-19 Place Planning & Organisation Service Total	42,720	-1,376	41,343	7,232	2,816	7%
2,863			Service Director Education Total	71,094	-15,325	55,769	16,028	1,329	2%
Service Director Commissioning									
4,000	CYP	14	Children in Care Placements	33,157	-695	32,462	19,317	7,000	22%
0	CYP		Commissioning Services	829	-20	809	221	0	0%
4,000			Service Director Commissioning Total	33,986	-715	33,271	19,538	7,000	21%

Forecast Outturn Variance (Previous) £000	Committee	Note	Budget Line	Gross Budget £000	Income Budget £000	Net Budget £000	Actual to date £000	Forecast Outturn Variance £000	Forecast Outturn Variance %
Service Director LDP and Prevention									
430	CYP	15	Children's Disability Service	9,864	-791	9,073	6,751	430	5%
430			Service Director LDP and Prevention Total	9,864	-791	9,073	6,751	430	5%
6,926			Total	179,677	-30,710	148,967	72,824	7,431	5%
Schools									
0	CYP		Primary and Secondary Schools	0	0	0	1	0	0%
0	CYP		Schools Financing	0	0	0	-2,546	0	0%
0	CYP		Pools and Contingencies	0	0	0	-357	0	0%
0			Schools Total	0	0	0	-2,902	0	0%
6,926			Overall Children, Education and Families Total	179,677	-30,710	148,967	69,922	7,431	5%

Appendix 1b – Children, Education and Families Detailed Financial Information (DSG)

Forecast Outturn Variance (Previous) £000	Committee	Note	Budget Line	Gross Budget £000	Income Budget £000	Net Budget £000	Actual to date £000	Forecast Outturn Variance £000	Forecast Outturn Variance %
Service Director Education									
0	CYP	16	Early Years Service	2,626	0	2,626	1,448	150	6%
0	CYP		Virtual School	0	0	0	0	0	0%
<u>SEND Specialist Services (0 - 25 years)</u>									
-0	CYP		SEND Specialist Services	7,250	-10	7,240	4,554	-0	0%
0	CYP		Funding to Special Schools and Units	47,798	0	47,798	19,684	0	0%
0	CYP		High Needs Top Up Funding	37,817	0	37,817	18,543	0	0%
-0	CYP		SEN Placements	20,290	-588	19,702	14,008	-0	0%
-0	CYP		Out of School Tuition	7,035	0	7,035	3,875	-0	0%
0	CYP		Alternative Provision and Inclusion	7,085	-101	6,984	4,312	-0	0%
14,000	CYP	17	SEND Financing – DSG	-14,686	0	-14,686	549	20,570	140%
14,000			SEND Specialist Services (0 - 25 years) Total	112,590	-699	111,891	65,524	20,570	18%
<u>0-19 Place Planning & Organisation Service</u>									
0	CYP		0-19 Organisation & Planning	2,442	-106	2,336	1,698	-23	-1%
0	CYP		Home to School Transport – Special	63	0	63	37	0	0%
0			0-19 Place Planning & Organisation Service Total	2,505	-106	2,399	1,735	-23	-1%
14,000			Service Director Education Total	117,721	-805	116,916	68,708	20,697	18%
Service Director Commissioning									
0	CYP		Commissioning Services	245	0	245	123	0	0%
0			Service Director Commissioning Total	245	0	245	123	0	0%
14,000			Total	117,966	-805	117,161	68,830	20,697	18%

Forecast Outturn Variance (Previous) £000	Committee	Note	Budget Line	Gross Budget £000	Income Budget £000	Net Budget £000	Actual £000	Forecast Outturn Variance £000	Forecast Outturn Variance %
Schools									
0	CYP		Primary and Secondary Schools	473,785	0	473,785	76,660	0	0%
0	CYP		Nursery Schools and PVI	60,921	0	60,921	35,609	0	0%
-2,270	CYP	18	Schools Financing	2,907	0	2,907	467	-2,270	-78%
0	CYP		Pools and Contingencies	0	0	0	0	0	0%
-2,270			Schools Total	537,613	0	537,613	112,736	-2,270	0%
Financing									
0	CYP		Financing DSG	304,558	-959,333	-654,774	-178,871	0	0%
0			Financing Total	304,558	-959,333	-654,774	-178,871	0	0%
11,730			Overall Children, Education and Families DSG Total	960,138	-960,138	0	2,696	18,427	0%

Appendix 2 – Service Commentaries on Forecast Outturn Position

Narrative is given below where there is an adverse/positive variance greater than 2% of annual budget or £100,000 whichever is greater for a service area.

Note	Commentary vs previous month	Service Area / Budget Line	Net Budget £000	Forecast Outturn Variance £000	Forecast Outturn Variance %	Commentary
1	Previous	Executive Director CEF	3,433	-1,360	-40%	The Vacancy Factor for Children Education Families (CEF) is currently forecast to overachieve by £750k. Following the confirmation of the national pay award, and the decision by Staffing and Appeals Committee for locally determined pay scales, there is an underspend of £610k against the allowance made in the budget for pay inflation
2	Previous	Corporate Parenting	4,398	-250	-6%	Corporate Parenting is forecasted to overspend by £100k due to agency staff usage. This is offset by £350k underspend from the Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) grant. Primarily due to receiving more grant funding than anticipated for FY 23-24, as well as additional income due for National Transfer Scheme Transfers.
3	Previous	Adoption	5,564	-400	-7%	The Adoption Service forecast is showing a £400k underspend. This is due to an underspend in Special Guardianship Order allowances.
4	Previous	Strategic Management - Children's Social Care	3,632	-375	-10%	One off underspend within the Strategic Management budget. Committed to be used in FY 2025-26.
5	Previous	Integrated Front Door	4,190	1,500	36%	The Integrated Front Door and Assessment service is forecasted to overspend by £1.5m in FY 2024-25. Additional agency staff have been recruited in MASH and Assessment's whilst the current structures are being reviewed. There are high levels of agency staff both within and over budgeted establishment, which is more expensive than employing permanent staff.
6	Previous	Family Safeguarding	4,466	-329	-7%	The Family Safeguarding budget is forecasted to underspend by £329k due to grant carry forward, coupled with 2 of the Family Safeguarding model contracts not being renewed in FY 24-25.
7	Previous	Targeted Support Service	9,299	-114	-1%	Targeted Support Service is forecasting an underspend of £114k due to the ending of a contract and non-salary underspend
8	New	Strategic Management - Education	3,115	-1,500	-48%	Underspend of £1.5m to reflect the continuation of the Household Support Fund which has released core funding previously identified to

Note	Commentary vs previous month	Service Area / Budget Line	Net Budget £000	Forecast Outturn Variance £000	Forecast Outturn Variance %	Commentary
						provide Free School Meal vouchers during school holidays which will instead be funded from the Household Support Fund grant.
9	Previous	ICT Service (Education)	-200	172	86%	The £172k forecast position is a result in the continued reduction in spend by schools on ICT hardware due to increasing financial challenges. The service is looking at ways to mitigate this overspend and amend the delivery model for future years.
10	Previous	Redundancy & Teachers Pensions	4,171	-450	-11%	Based on the reduction in the number of eligible recipients an opening forecast underspend of £450k is being reported for teachers pensions.
11	Previous	SEND Specialist Services	4,883	350	7%	The Education Psychology service is currently forecasting an overspend of £350k. The service continues to experience increasing demand which cannot be met from within the substantive team and is therefore being met through use of locum Education Psychologists. This is as a direct result of the increase in requests for Education Health and Care Needs Assessments (EHCNA) that is impacting on all SEND services.
12	Previous	Home to School Transport – Special	25,080	2,090	8%	The £2.7m forecast overspend across mainstream and SEND transport is a result of a continuing increase in demand and complexity of need.
13	Previous	Home to School Transport – Mainstream	13,374	671	5%	
14	Updated	Children in Care Placements	32,462	7,000	22%	The increased £7m forecast overspend is primarily due to a small number of young people in very high-cost placements. If forecast to year-end, these placements would result in a more significant overspend position, however, the service is working hard with relevant agencies to secure placements at more manageable costs and therefore we do not expect these to continue for the full year.
15	Previous	Disability Service	9,073	430	5%	The 0-25 Disability Service continues to forecast an overspend of £430k which predominantly reflects the increase in demand and need across the direct payment budget, community support and Camplay holiday clubs. In addition to this there has been pressure created by the intensive therapeutic support hub (ITSH) which is no longer being implemented.
16	New	Early Years Service – DSG	2,626	150	6%	Estimation of overspend on Special Educational Needs Inclusion Fund (SENIF), which is based on actuals and existing commitment records

Note	Commentary vs previous month	Service Area / Budget Line	Net Budget £000	Forecast Outturn Variance £000	Forecast Outturn Variance %	Commentary
						for the Summer 2024 and Autumn 2024 terms respectively. Estimations of expenditure in the Spring term have been created using last year's take-up. Growing complexity of need is seeing high levels of demand for SENIF and delays in finalising EHCPs is meaning this is having to be funded for longer.
17	Previous	SEND Financing – DSG	-14,686	20,570	140%	The revised forecast DSG deficit is reflective of continuing pressures and increasing demand within the High Needs Block (HNB).
18	Previous	Schools Financing - DSG	2,907	-2,270	-78%	Budgeted underspend on the DSG Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) to mitigate HNB pressures.

Appendix 3 – Capital Position

3.1 Capital Expenditure

Original 2024-25 Budget as per Business Plan £000	Committee	Scheme Category	Total Scheme Revised Budget £000	Total Scheme Forecast Variance £000	Budget Carried-forward 2024-25 £000	Budget Re-phasing 2024-25 £000	Additional/Reduction in Funding 2024-25 £000	Revised Budget for 2024-25 £000	Actual Spend (Oct) £000	Forecast Outturn Variance (Oct) £000
17,767	CYP	Basic Need - Primary	119,409	0	1,018	-995	0	17,790	10,021	-2,753
43,433	CYP	Basic Need - Secondary	173,348	-416	8,102	-17,566	0	33,969	21,275	-616
1,040	CYP	Basic Need - Early Years	8,531	0	588	0	0	1,628	318	-978
2,435	CYP	Adaptations	11,473	0	1,228	-890	0	2,773	1,180	-1,245
3,250	CYP	Conditions Maintenance	25,225	0	507	0	1,225	4,982	3,321	0
780	CYP	Devolved Formula Capital	6,999	0	2,079	0	-21	2,838	-5	0
20,951	CYP	Specialist Provision	89,120	0	597	-5,221	416	16,743	10,265	-456
150	CYP	Site Acquisition and Development	750	0	0	0	0	150	0	0
550	CYP	Temporary Accommodation	6,300	0	0	0	0	550	118	0
1,749	CYP	Children Support Services	9,521	0	0	0	0	1,749	2	0
-16,707	CYP	Capital Variation	-46,817	0	0	4,359	0	-12,348	0	6,048
1,213	CYP	Capitalised Interest	2,844	0	0	0	0	1,213	0	0
0	CYP	Environmental fund Transfer	-3,499	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
76,611		Total CEF Capital Spending	403,204	-416	14,119	-20,313	1,620	72,037	46,496	0

There are six schemes with significant variances (>£250k) either due to changes in phasing or changes in overall scheme costs to be reported this month.

Ref	Directorate/ Committee	Commentary vs previous month	Scheme	Scheme Budget £m	Budget for 2024-25 £m	Forecast Outturn Variance £m	Cause	Commentary
1			Basic Need - Primary					
1a	CEF CYP	Previous Month	Littleport	6.0	4.2	-2.7	Phasing	Planning delays and authorisation for the project has caused delays. Start on site now expected early January 2025 with expected completion late October 25. Kitchen works carried out in holidays in 2025.
2			Basic Need - Secondary					
2a	CEF CYP	Previous Month	Darwin Green (North West Fringe) secondary	34.66	1.0	-0.750	Phasing	Slippage due to lack of progress in design. Anticipated that only 75% of MS2 would be completed by 31 st March. No tender issued for contractor appointment as yet, Scheme will be delivered for 2027 completion.
2b	CEF CYP	Previous Month	Witchford Village College	1.380	1.316	-0.416	Underspend	Underspend due to tender price lower than planned.
2c	CEF CYP	New	Alconbury secondary	37,027	1,500	0.350	Phasing	Increase is due to MS2 report cost plan received at the end of September 2024 including costs of £350K for UXO survey and other fees.
3			Basic Need - Early Years					
3a	CEF CYP	Previous Month	LA Early Years Provision	8.531	1.628	-0.978	Phasing	Teversham scheme delayed due to planning and conditions. Start date tentatively agreed January 2025. Tender costs of construction works are lower than estimated.
4			Adaptations					
4a	CEF CYP	Previous Month	Townley Primary	1.60	1.396	-0.746	Phasing	Delays due to highways work required and the timing of this. Further slippage due to delay in authorising the project spend. Completion now slipped to July 2025
4b	CEF CYP	Previous Month	Willingham Primary	.892	.40	-0.35	Phasing	Design work has not yet completed and has been slower than originally anticipated, start on site delayed until next financial year.
8			Specialist Provision					

Ref	Directorate/ Committee	Commentary vs previous month	Scheme	Scheme Budget £m	Budget for 2024-25 £m	Forecast Outturn Variance £m	Cause	Commentary
8a	CEF CYP	Previous Month	Highfield Littleport	8.0	2.8	-0.6	Phasing	Slippage due to revised start on site from November 2024 to January 2025 due to redesign, omission of alterations and for increased externals due to requirement for turning circle.

3.2 Capital Variations Budget

Variation budgets are set annually and reflect an estimate of the average variation experienced across all capital schemes, and reduce the overall borrowing required to finance our capital programme. There are typically delays in some form across the capital programme due to unforeseen events, but we cannot project this for each individual scheme. We therefore budget centrally for some level of delay. Any known delays are budgeted for and reported at scheme level. If forecast underspends are reported, these are offset with a forecast outturn for the variation budget, leading to a balanced outturn overall up to the point when rephasing exceeds this budget.

3.3 Capital Funding

Original 2024-25 Funding Allocation as per Business Plan £000	Source of Funding	Budget Carried- forward 2024-25 £000	Budget Revisions 2024-25 £000	Revised Budget for 2024-25 £000	Forecast Spend - Outturn (Oct) £000	Forecast Variance - Outturn (Oct) £000
12,479	Basic Need	0	0	12,479	12,479	0
3,450	Capital maintenance	2,052	375	5,877	4,982	-895
780	Devolved Formula Capital	2,079	-21	2,838	2,838	0
0	Schools Capital	0	0	0	0	0
20,354	S106 contributions	21,619	-14,095	27,878	27,878	0
9,312	Other Specific Grants	797	-5,155	4,954	3,975	-979
0	Other Contributions	0	0	0	0	0
0	Other Revenue Contributions	0	0	0	0	0
30,236	Prudential Borrowing	1,518	-2,884	28,870	30,744	1,874
0	Prudential Borrowing (Repayable)	-13,946	3,087	-10,859	-10,859	0
76,611	Total Funding	14,119	-18,693	72,037	72,037	0

Appendix 4 – SAVINGS TRACKER – CEF Quarter 2

Directorate	Committee	Type	Business Plan Reference	Title	Planned Savings 2024-25 £000	Forecast Savings £000	Variance from Plan £000	% Variance	RAG	Forecast Commentary
CEF	CYP	2024-25 saving	A/R.6.001	Children's Disability operational savings	-96	-96	0	0%	Green	On Track
CEF	CYP	2024-25 saving	A/R.6.003	Targeted Support operational savings	-65	-65	0	0%	Green	On Track
CEF	CYP	2024-25 saving	A/R.6.004	Family Safeguarding Service	-200	-200	0	0%	Green	On Track
CEF	CYP	2024-25 saving	A/R.6.005	Social Care and Education Transport	-582	0	582	100%	Black	Continuing increases in demand and complexity of need have result in additional cost pressures across transport budgets.
CEF	CYP	2024-25 saving	A/R.6.007	Children in Care Placements High-Cost Placements Review	-1,000	0	1,000	100%	Black	Despite efforts to drive down costs of high cost placements the budget is still showing a pressure relating to a small cohort of Young People who are unable to step down provision.
CEF	CYP	2024-25 saving	A/R.6.008	Children in Care Placements Unregulated Placements reduction in costs	-250	0	250	100%	Black	Despite efforts to drive down costs from unregistered placements the budget is still showing a pressure relating to a small cohort of Young People who are unable to step down from the current provision. These packages are reviewed weekly.
CEF	CYP	2024-25 saving	A/R.6.009	Early Years Service contract savings	-19	-19	0	0%	Green	On Track
CEF	CYP	2024-25 saving	A/R.6.010	Home to School Transport	-87	-87	0	0%	Green	On Track
CEF	CYP	2024-25 saving	A/R.6.011	Residential Strategy - Children in Care placements Saving	-435	0	435	100%	Black	Budget adjustments made based on investment and savings assuming a January 2025 start however project rescoped and revised start date Jan 2026 which

										will need to be reflected in 25/26 Business Plan.
CEF	CYP	2024-25 saving	A/R.6.012	School Improvement Service operational savings	-49	-49	0	0%	Green	On Track
CEF	CYP	2024-25 saving	A/R.6.013	Corporate Parenting	-200	-200	0	0%	Green	On Track
CEF	CYP	2023-24 cfwd	A/R.6.255 (2023-24)	Children in Care Placements	-1,000	0	1,000	100%	Black	Despite efforts to drive down costs from unregistered placements the budget is still showing a pressure relating to a small cohort of Young People who present with complex needs and requires a high level of support.
CEF	CYP	2023-24 cfwd	A/R.6.255 (2023-24)	Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance	-45	-45	0	0%	Green	On Track
CEF	CYP	2024-25 income	A/R.7.101	Early Years additional income	-4	-4	0	0%	Green	On Track
CEF	CYP	2024-25 income	A/R.7.102	School Improvement Service	-47	0	47	100%	Black	Work is ongoing to consider further opportunities within the service to deliver.
CEF	CYP	2024-25 income	A/R.7.103	Children's Targeted Support	-15	-15	0	0%	Green	On Track
CEF	CYP	2024-25 income	A/R.7.104	Children's Disability - increase in external income	-10	-10	0	0%	Green	On Track
CEF	CYP	2024-25 income	A/R.7.105	Educational Safeguarding additional income	-7	-7	0	0%	Green	On Track

APPENDIX 5 – Technical Note

5.1 The table below outlines the additional Children, Education and Families grant income, which is not built into base budgets.

Grant	Awarding Body	Amount £000
Grants as per Business Plan		
Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers	Home Office	7,040
Core Schools Budget	DfE	4,272
Supporting Families	Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC)	1,977
Early years Wraparound	DfE	1,944
Holiday Activity Fund (HAF)	DfE	1,928
Cambridgeshire Music Hub	Arts Council	1,049
Supported Accommodation Reforms Grant	DfE	809
Youth Offending Good Practice Grant	Youth Justice Board	709
Adoption Support Fund	DfE	625
Public Health	Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC)	616
Staying Put	DfE	285
Virtual School	DfE	227
Personal Advisor Support to Care Leavers & Homelessness	DfE	176
Social Worker Apprenticeship	DfE	154
Turnaround Programme 2022-2025	Secretary of State for Justice	150
Leaving Care allowance - uplift	DfE	134
Crime and Disorder Reduction Grant	Police & Crime Commissioner	127
Non-material grants (+/- £160k)	Various	237
Total Non-Baselined Grants 24-25		22,460
Financing DSG	DfE	117,161
Total Grant Funding 24-25		139,621

The non-baselined grants are allocated across the Children, Education and Families directorates as follows:

Directorate	Grant Total £000
Children & Safeguarding	14,226
Education	7,618
Various (Public Health)	616
TOTAL	22,460

5.2 Virements and Budget Reconciliation (Children, Education and Families)

(Virements between Children, Education and Families and other service blocks)

	Period	£000	Notes
Budget as per Business Plan		148,900	
Multiple Directorates (all)	Apr	14	Post BP, pre initial budget load adjustments
Multiple Directorates (all)	Apr	-200	Public Health Strategic Management in budget reduction 2023-24
Commissioning Services	May	194	Children's Advocacy new contract
Executive Director - CEF	May	73	Salary budget transferred from Adults Exec to Children Exec
Children's Centres Strategy	July	-200	Transfer contribution from PH reserves via Corporate to CEF
Children's Centres Strategy	Oct	200	Reversal of Transfer contribution from PH reserves via Corporate to CEF
Executive Director - CEF	Oct	-14	Adjust/Correct Public Health MoU funding
Budget 24-25		148,967	

5.3 Children, Education and Families Earmarked Reserve Schedule

Budget Heading	Opening Balance 2024-25 £000	Movements 2024-25 £000	Balance at Quarter 2 £000	Year End Forecasted Balance £000	Reserve Description
Strategic Framework Priorities Reserves:					
Transport invest to save	292	-16	277	129	To support programme of work to deliver savings in Social and Education Transport.
SAFE Project	96	0	96	-0	Partnership Development Approach to Data Analyst in respect of Extra Familial Harm & Exploitation
Cambs Art Reserve	65	0	65	55	Art Collection Restoration Fund. Providing cultural experiences for children and young people in Cambridgeshire.
Other investment reserves	241	0	241	158	Small grant balances
Corporate risk reserves relating to services in this directorate:					
Children's risk reserves	163	3,084	3,247	3,200	Reserve created in business planning for 2024-25 for children's placements cost risk; reserve is planned in to be used in 2025-26
Other risk reserves	1	0	1	0	Union reps funding for 2024-25
Ringfenced Reserves:					
Regional Adoption Agency Reserve	793	0	793	469	Funding to cover CCC legacy adoption costs following transition to a Regional Adoption Agency.
Local Safeguarding	354	0	354	354	Local Safeguarding carry forward amount. Annual contributions from internal and external bodies.
Trading unit account	146	0	146	0	Cambs Music building fund and commissioned work reserve
Improvement programme	154	0	154	0	Children's improvement programme reserve
UASC Grant Reserve	170	0	170	0	Risk reserve to mitigate Home Office grant funding decisions
PFI School Sinking Fund	2,188	0	2,188	2,038	Thomas Clarkson PFI reserve to cover inflation increases.
Other ringfenced contributions	294	-170	124	63	Grant funding to support education settings and Residual school facing grants.
Earmarked Reserved Relating to CEF	4,959	2,898	7,858	6,467	

(+) positive figures represent surplus funds.

(-) negative figures represent deficit funds.

5.4 Children, Education and Families Capital Reserve Schedule

Budget Heading	Opening Balance 2024-25 £000	Movements 2024-25 £000	Year End Forecasted Balance £000	Reserve Description
Education Capital	2,079	0	279	Devolved Formula Capital
Education Capital	11,145	0	6,146	Capital Other Grants
Education Capital	0	0	0	Capital Basic Need
Education Capital	2,252	0	0	Capital Schools Condition
Primary Schools	36	0	36	Insurance – Primary
Central Financing	314	0	314	Schools General
TOTAL CAPITAL RESERVES	15,827	0	6,775	

(+) positive figures represent surplus funds.

(-) negative figures represent deficit funds.

APPENDIX 6 – Maintained Schools

The table below provides a summary of the value of balances held by maintained schools as at 31st March 2024 (excluding academy convertors):

2022-23	(Deficit) / Surplus	Nursery	Primary	Special	Total	Change from 2022-23
4	(£100k+)	2	3	1	6	2
3	(£60k) – (£100k)	0	3	0	3	0
3	(£20k) – (£60k)	1	11	0	12	9
3	(£10k) – (£20k)	0	3	0	3	0
1	(£1k - £10k)	0	7	0	7	6
7	£0k - £10k	0	5	0	5	-2
6	£10k - £20k	0	5	0	5	-1
28	£20k - £60k	0	19	0	19	-9
17	£60k - £100k	0	17	0	17	0
19	£100k - £150k	2	16	0	18	-1
11	£150k - £200k	1	8	1	10	-1
13	£200k - £300k	0	10	0	10	-3
2	£300k - £400k	0	3	1	4	2
8	£400k+	1	4	0	5	-3
125	Total	7	94	3	124	-1

School level balances can be viewed in Appendix A of [Schools Balances and DSG Financial Health - July 2024](#) presented to Cambridgeshire Schools Forum in July 2024.

The following maintained schools have all submitted deficit budgets for the 2024-25 financial year:

School	Status
Brunswick Nursery School	Notice of Concern issued – Budget resubmission required.
Colleges Nursery School	Notice of Concern issued – Budget resubmission required.
Huntingdon Nursery School	Formal Warning Notice issued – Structural solutions being explored.
The Fields Early Years Centre	Notice of Concern issued – Budget resubmission required.
Ashbeach Primary School	Notice of Concern issued – Deficit Licence approved.
Castle Camps Primary School	Notice of Concern issued – Budget resubmission required.
Eastfield Infant School	Notice of Concern issued – Deficit Licence approved.
Fen Drayton Primary School	Notice of Concern issued – Budget resubmission required (extension granted due to fire).
Grove Primary School	Notice of Concern issued – Revised budget balances in-year.
Gt & Lt Shelford Primary School	Notice of Concern issued – Budget resubmission required.
Hardwick and Cambourne Primary School	Notice of Concern issued – Budget resubmission required.
Hauxton Primary School	Notice of Concern issued – Budget resubmission required.
Hemingford Grey Primary School	Notice of Concern issued – Budget resubmission required.
Linton Infant School	Notice of Concern issued – Deficit License approved.
Lionel Walden Primary School	Notice of Concern issued – Budget resubmission required.
Mayfield Primary School	Notice of Concern to be issued – Deficit License approved.
Meridian Primary School	Notice of Concern to be issued - Budget resubmission required.
Orchard Park Comm. Primary School	Notice of Concern issued – Deficit Licence approved.
Queens Federation	Notice of Concern issued and RIG in place. Deficit to be addressed across the Federation.
Shirley Primary School	Notice of Concern issued – Deficit Licence approved.
Spinney Primary School	Notice of Concern issued – Budget resubmission required.
Spring Meadow Infant School	Notice of Concern issued – Deficit Licence approved.
St Anne's Primary School	Notice of Concern issues – Budget resubmission required. Structural solutions being explored.
St Helen's Primary School	Notice of Concern issued – Deficit Licence approved.
St Matthew's Primary School	Notice of Concern issued – Deficit Licence approved.
Steeple Morden Primary School	Notice of Concern issued – Budget resubmission required.
Trumpington Meadows P	Notice of Concern issued – Budget resubmission required recognising use of balances across the Federation.
Westfield Junior School	Notice of Concern issued – Budget resubmission required.
Wheatfields Primary School	Notice of Concern issued – Budget resubmission received.
Wyton Primary School	Notice of Concern issued – Deficit Licence approved.
Castle Special School	Sector review to be undertaken.
Granta Special School	Sector review to be undertaken.
Samuel Pepys Special School	Sector review to be undertaken.